

Memorandum

To: File
From: B. Nez and L. Domenici
Date: 6/12/2026
Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting at Twin Lakes Chapter

Wilson Facilitators: Jesse Shuck, Marlene Hoskie, and Blaine Nez

Location: Twin Lakes Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 10

Key Themes from Attendees:

- Decision Making
 - Questions regarding who makes grazing, land use, and agricultural decisions and who is ultimately accountable for those decisions.
 - Some attendees stated that processes are unclear and it is hard to track who is responsible.
 - Attendees stated that there is limited transparency regarding how decisions are moved through Navajo Nation departments and BIA offices.
- ARMP Function
 - How will this plan work after the project is complete?
 - Who will be responsible for maintaining and updating the plan?
 - If it is a living framework, how will it adapt over time?
 - How will communities continue to provide input after the formal public involvement process ends?
 - Several attendees asked for clear process for communicating project updates and future plan revisions.
- Transparency
 - The permitting process, boundary locations, grazing assignments, tally counts, and decision-making processes were described as difficult to understand.
 - Attendees expressed interest in seeing grazing boundaries and allotments displayed on maps and requested improved public access to information.
 - One attendee said that there should be a “single source of truth” available for both officials and the public so everyone is working from the same place.
- Accountability
 - There was extensive discussion regarding accountability within Navajo Nation departments.
 - Departments often blame one another when issues come up. Then these issues are often passed between agencies without resolution.
 - Some attendees expressed concerns that leadership positions may be influenced by favoritism rather than qualifications, which they believed contributes to delays and inefficiencies in permitting processes.
 - Others stated that communities often feel powerless when projects become stalled because there is no clear path to hold decision makers accountable.
- Grazing and Agriculture

- Many called for a standardization of grazing permit process, improved fencing, better rotational grazing practices, clearer tally counts procedures, and stronger enforcement of unauthorized (state-branded cattle) without permits.
 - Several attendees said that permittees should develop their own range management plans and that better guidance on sustainable grazing practices would benefit communities.
- **Water**
 - Access to water was identified as a major priority.
 - Attendees discussed access to wells, water lines, and potential benefits associated the Gallup Water Supply Project.
 - Attendees emphasized the importance of protecting natural springs and other water sources.
 - There is concern over individuals claiming public water resources as private property.
- **Officials**
 - Many attendees expressed concerns about conflicts of interest involving chapter officials, BIA offices, and Navajo Nation departments.
 - Attendees stated that local communities often feel decisions are made elsewhere and that people most affected by those decisions have limited influence on the process.
 - Some attendees expressed concern regarding potential retaliation from grazing officials when disagreements arise over permits or land-use decisions.
- **Goals**
 - There was a discussion regarding boarder planning goals.
 - Attendees identified needs related to risk management, improved permitting processes, water access, accountability, dryland farming practices, boundary clarification, and greater transparency.
 - Several attendees stated that defined processes, estimated timelines, and flowcharts would help communities better understand decision-making procedures and project requirements.

Key Messaging by Wilson staff:

- The ARMP is intended to be a plan developed for and by the Navajo Nation.
- BIA will approve the ARMP, but it will remain the Nation's Plan.
- The proposed project area is based on Navajo Nation mapping and includes lands within the Nation.
- A draft ARMP will be made available for public review to ensure community input is accurately reflected.
- Presentation will be provided to the Chapter.

Observations:

1. Discussion focused primarily on governance, accountability, and permitting rather than livestock production or drought conditions.

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2. Transparency and access to information were repeatedly identified as major concerns.
3. Participants expressed interest in clear implementation and update procedures for the ARMP.
4. Attendees emphasized the need for clearly defined processes, timelines, and communication mechanisms.
5. Water access and protection of water resources remained a significant concern.
6. Clear implementation and update procedures for the ARMP.
7. Participants requested continued communication and regular project updates throughout the planning process.

Of-Interest:

- Geneva Begay, Farm Board Member